



HI-Q

THE LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB JOURNAL

LARC- Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Ave., Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7B 4A3

THE PREZ SEZ.....

Hi Folks,

The world of amateur radio has been with us for about three quarters of a century and some in our club can remember those times and the rest of us can at least try to understand and relate to what the earlier amateurs did to partake in their hobby. They were probably technically minded as they built and maintained their radio stations and stayed within certain frequencies.

Now that the computer age has arrived, the world of amateur radio has changed. Gone are the days when an amateur radio operator can dismantle his radio equipment and fix it. Another factor that has changed, is that we have all aged and the majority of radio operators are of the age of "baby-boomers" or above while the number of young people below these ages has dropped significantly and these young people appear to be more interested in computers than in radios. Who then is going to keep the world of amateur radio alive? Obviously, it is up to us.

What challenges do we have and can and how do we meet them?

In looking at the March / April 2000 issue of "The Canadian Amateur" magazine published by Radio Amateurs Canada, President Ken Oelke VE6AFO in his "The President's Report" is presenting challenges for us. These challenges are not the challenges of our forefathers who have gone before us.

These challenges are new and they relate to world trade, the World Trade Organization, multinational companies, World Radio conferences, world economics and world politics. Read pages 9 and 10 in the issue to which I referred and you will understand why I am bringing this topic before you. Stay tuned for further information.

Ian VA3RIM

EDITORIAL INK.....

PUBLISHING AXIOMS

AXIOM #1. You can't please **all** the people **all** of the time.

AXIOM #2. If you can please just **some** of the people **some** of the time, then you're probably doing OK.

Over a recent coffee, a friend and Executive brought me a minor complaint on behalf of another party, something I had changed in a submission to HI-Q. The criticism was quite valid, and this error won't be repeated. I can stand the criticism – I didn't survive twenty-seven years of front-line warfare (translation: teaching high school) by being thin-skinned!

What bothered me was that it was delivered via a third party. Was there some fear I might just up and quit? Dream on....you're stuck with me as editor until one of three things occurs:

- 1) I expire suddenly at the keyboard (or on skis)
- 2) Someone else wants the job (unlikely at these wages)
- 3) My self-imposed 3-year term as editor is up.

I welcome your criticism....but please either deliver it in person or informally by email.....not via a third party.

When you ask someone else to do your job, it makes for a rather uncomfortable situation for that third person.

73 de dave ve3avs

p.s. ...to all who submit material via email...if possible please send your material as an *insert* ...it saves me time.

“DOWN MEMORY LANE”

**Founding President
P. J. (Pat) O'Shea VE3FW**

LARC maintains the Club call **VE3FW**
to honour his memory.

Senate

Keith Fiske VE3JQ
Ray Forslund VE3EDZ
Ray Greer VE3CH
Dave Kimpton, VE3AVS
Bill Klemacki VE3AJ
Bill Roberts VE3ARN/7

Executive Board

President: Ian Mellis VA3RIM
577-1628

Vice Pres: Ed Baumann..... VE3SNW
622-1216

Secretary: Norm BellVE3XRC
577-9316

Treasurer: Jan Sokoloski.....VA3JRS
344-3222

Directors: Andy MalcolmVE3INI
345-1858
Eric ToddVE3XET
626-9720
Bob HansonVE3RVA
767-6924
Pat Pugh.....VA3PP
345-8562

Past Pres: Terry Stewardson..... VE3TKA
577-9439

Club Repeaters

VE3YQT 147.060 - OFFSET
VE3TBR 146.820 - OFFSET

***Next Meeting –
Thursday, April 13th***

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm every second Thursday of each
month at Confederation College in Room 207B in the McIntyre
Building.

HIGH-Q April 1990.....the club's newsletter ten years ago was
a packed 2-page issue (printed both sides).

Pat **VE3HFS** (now **VE3PD**) penned a column
describing his activities working the “birds:..... QSO's with
UA0ALA, **SM4JWI** and **HG5BH**. Oscar 10 was non-usable
since its orbit keeps it largely in the shade and batteries cannot
be recharged. Pat mentioned that the Russian amateurs were
becoming more active on satellites. Pat also gave a presentation
on satellites at the March meeting. (“Far out, dude!” was one
comment overheard after the meeting.)

We commemorated the 25th anniversary of the new
Canadian flag by using special prefixes from March 1 through
April 30. A packet clinic was scheduled for Churchill High
School with TNC's being demonstrated by **VE3's BBS, JAU,**
KRH, DOM and **EBL**.

VE3's BBS and **NHX** picked up “Ham of the Year”
awards at the annual banquet held at the Mekong Delta
Restaurant. **VE3's XRC** and **JAU** were teaching the amateur
radio course for the LARC. **VE3EFC** was busy assisting some
of us in building emergency j-pole antennas from twin-lead.

VE3PHL wrote a column from Hamilton harbor
highlighting the new amateur transceivers from Japan. Rigs
mentioned are the Standard C50 and Icom IC970. Scanners of
interest are the Icom R1 and R100. The Icom IC229 is at the
dealers replacing the IC228. John also mentioned a few new
mobile antennas on the market.

The LARC constitution was amended to allow election
of officers in October instead of June. Also, results of the
Sibley Ski Tour were phone-patched directly back to radio
station CJLB.

73 de ve3avs

The Future According to Andy:

In the January/February issue of TCA Andy Neimers **VE7FJT**, in his column, **THE FRIENDLY JUNGLE TELEGRAPH – THE INTERNET AND AMATEUR RADIO** – makes five pronouncements as to the future of our hobby in this millenium. Here are three predictions we should heed carefully (final two at a later date...Ed.)

Andy's first thought:

We will see fewer young people "bite" on amateur radio if there isn't "a screen" component in the activity. This is both a danger and a development opportunity with the positive side being that those young people who do join the ranks will be more dedicated to exploring certain amateur radio phenomena such as digital modes. More young people with basic on air needs or interests will simply stay with an exploding universe of cellular or "public service" type technologies rather than work for their basic amateur ticket.

Andy's second thought:

At the other end of the age spectrum, we are going to see a decline in "traffic net" type of operations because that sort of activity will be seen as redundant given internet proliferation. We will see however continued use of amateur modes for emergency and natural disaster communications. And this is probably our BEST vector for keeping our spectrum legitimately ours. Using computers for this public service will be part and parcel of this activity and the internet will at times be bested by our on-air ability to get around "hard-wired" modes.

Andy's third thought:

This is scarywe are going to see further battles for spectrum allotment; the argument being made that the internet can provide for all "amateur" communications needs so that the bands should be made available to "revenue-producing" enterprises.

Thanks to Andy Neimers **VE7FJT** for these thoughts.

Reprinted from Jan/Feb TCA, with thanks.

Final thanks to Stiig **VE3LBX** from the SAR Communicator (Sudbury ARC)...Ed.

We've got Websites.....

Congratulations to the Sudbury ARC for getting their website up and runningcheck it out at:

www.3sympatico.ca/travis.fitzgerald/

Special thanks to Wayne **VA3WRL** and others for forwarding websites of interest to amateurs (now we know what Wayne is doing up until sunrise !) Here is a list recently received and a brief description of each site:

www.repairworld.com/ aimed primarily at working technicians - covers camcorders, TV, VCR, computers - hot repair tips BBS – electronic shareware

www.howes-comms.demon.co.uk/ amateur radio products, books, information; has online kit catalogue, information sheets and articles

www.soltek.ca/mainfrm.htm solar energy for various uses – industrial, residential, RV, marine, etc. lots of data

www.csvhfs.org/CSVHFOOA.html information on 34th annual VHF conference in Winnipeg, July 20-21-22 – lists of topics and speakers (I'm not sure if the "OO" should be O's or zero's...Ed.)

www.ve2dm.net/canhams.html services offered include links to other amateur radio websites

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/sfo01862e.html> Industry Canada amateur certification fact sheets

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/radioamateur.e> similar to above

www.radioactive.manitoba.com/newsletters/march2000.html Manitoba amateur radio newsletter

www.vvm.com/~tcarc/hamlinks.htm amateur radio resources....this site is an encyclopedia of information...everything you wanted to know about our hobby but were afraid to ask!

www.time.gov/ don't have general coverage radio for time checks? Use this to set your clocks!

From **Mike VE3ZG.....**

The first day of spring has arrived, quite quietly with no foul weather in site yet. Do not give up yet though, the rest of March and April is still ahead of us, and we have all had the experience of what that can bring yet. The Sibley Ski Tour on March 4 just managed to get off, and our crew of intrepid volunteers were able to provide the assistance required to keep over 800 skiers on track. Many thanks for once again participating in a very worthwhile event. I understand our new banner, donated by the Sibley Ski Association, was proudly displayed at the event. (See also report from **VE3XRC...Ed.**)

Nothing now until the beginning of May for the Annual Salvation Army Fund Drive, and I understand that contact has already been made for our assistance. Other events for May include the Run for Women, the Legion (now Shoppers Drug Mart.....Ed.) 10 mile Road Race and Hip Hip Hooray. A busy month, and hopefully a time when good weather has arrived.

Sorry I missed the visit to Environment Canada, however I understand a good representation from the Club were able to tour the facility. I hear that a lot of lamination of the new Certificates issued by Industry Canada is in progress. Keep them well preserved, as this is will we get now. See you at the meeting!! Mike

Something worth knowing...a king-size waterbed holds enough water to fill a 2000 square foot house four inches deep!!!

Fleamarket talk.....followed by **English** translation.

1. This rig puts out a BIG signal.....it's 50 kHz wide!
 2. I just aligned it ...the transformer slugs are jammed!
 3. I don't know if it works.....it doesn't work and probably never has!
 4. Sure it works at full power...it sucks all it can from the wall outlet!
- (Tks to Rob **VE3FLB**)

A non-limerick submission from Randy **VA3GOT**:

To some this is fun to some it's a passion when power is applied its lights start aflashin'.

A capacitor, a resistor, removed from a board, much of this stuff a good amateur hoards.

The cutters, screwdrivers and heat and a bloke, all of this stuff helps let out the smoke!

When the air clears and you let out a moan the good technicians will say "take heart, done that before so you're not alone!"

Off to the coffee shop and what do you see; many local amateurs drinking coffee and tea.

Now off to the Blue Parrot and what do they do; they talk public service and who would do who.

Later at Boston Pizza, with good food galore, nachos, garlic bread, pizza and more.

I heard it said, "Aw, what the heck! With Ian and that pension leave him the cheque!"

During our December monthly meeting when the cold is around and fall quickly fleeting,
The girls put out some lively entertainment, they work so hard, they can hardly contain it.

With limerick and rhyme, they show all a good time, even if they pick on the unknowing and disabled.

Well I tried to pick on everyone that has influenced me in amateur radio, and I hope I didn't miss anyone. I hope you can use these DE ...- .- ...-- --. --- - (approx 12 wpm)

(Thanks very much Randy...Ed.)

From Norm **VE3XRC**.....

23rd Annual Sibley Ski Tour

Saturday, March 4th saw 809 participants take part in the 23rd Annual Sibley Ski Tour at Sleeping giant Provincial Park with 250 registered for the 50 km tour. As usual, the LARC provided communications covering all the check points, highway crossings as well as the prefinish and finish line. **VE3ICY**, **VE3RVA**, **VA3MVR**, **VA3RIM**, **VE3FLB** and **VA3TBA** manned the check points and highway crossings. **VE3XLB** and **VA3EAP** worked the prefinish area providing bib numbers to **VA3MOB** and **VE3CLV** at the finish line. **VE3TKA** and **VE3XRC** looked after net control. The event started at 10 am and the last skier crossed the finish line at 4:15 pm. Prior to the event, Sibley Ski Tour organizers presented the LARC with a new 2' x 6' banner complete with a 2' x 2' colour logo in appreciation of our efforts over the past years.

(Thanks very much Norm....Ed.)

Only in Canada.....

Do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the **back** of the store to get their prescriptions while the healthy people can buy cigarettes at the **front**!

Do we buy hot dogs in packages of **twelve** and hot dog buns in packages of **eight**!

Do we think sexy lingerie is tube-socks and a flannel nightie with only 8 buttons!

Do we attend a formal event dressed in our best clothes, finest jewellery and Sorel boots!

Do we play road hockey on skates!

(Thanks to Sam **VA3SAM**.....Ed.)

News from RAC.....

Industry Canada will continue to introduce regulatory amendments as outlined in a previous discussion paper released last year. A new amateur operator certificate will become the sole document required for operation of amateur radio equipment. It will replace both the traditional amateur radio license and certificate.

Amateurs will no longer be required to pay a license issuance fee and annual license renewal fee. However, amateurs will still be required to advise Industry Canada of a change of mailing address.

A new certificate, consisting of both diploma and wallet size, will be mailed to each amateur currently holding a radio license. All call signs currently held by amateurs will now appear on the new certificate. Amateur clubs will receive an amateur registration identifying the call signs currently issued to clubs on behalf of the sponsor.

Any amateur that did not hold a radio license prior to March 31, 2000, will be eligible to apply for a call sign.

There are no fees for issuing the following:

- an initial station call sign and certificate
- a replacement certificate due to loss or damage
- a replacement certificate with a new call sign due to a change in address to a new province or territory

A few of \$60.00 will be charged as follows:

- to change an existing call sign (including change to a two-letter call sign)
- to issue a call sign to the station of a club or other organization
- to issue an amateur radio operator and additional call sign
- to issue a special event or special prefix call sign

From Fred VE3FAL.....

March 6th holds a new page in the amateur radio fraternity in Thunder Bay. A group of local QRP (low power) operators met at the home of Bill VE3XT to talk radio and show off some toys. Most of the QRP rigs that were on display were all put together by these amateur radio operators.

Those present at Bills' were: Wayne VA3WRL, Phil VE3AXL, Rob VE3FLB, Fred VE3FAL and of course our host Bill VE3XT. Topics of discussion were antennas, radios and various reading material and QRP clubs. Some of the items on display were: Nighstsmite, Pixie II, Two Fer, MFJ9420, OHR HP XCVR . 38 Special, Tick Keyer, Altoids, VE3DNL Marker Kit. Bill also had QRP Quarterly magazines dating back to 1894 (oops! that's 1984...Ed.) Other reading material was the 5 Watter (T5W) from Michigan, QRP Homebrewer (NJQRP Club), and QRPP (Norcal.)

We are planning a QRP field test to happen in the near future to try some of the rigs and antennas out, and see how they all compare. We are planning on meeting once a month and hope to have others from the amateur community attend and maybe spark some more interest in the exciting hobby of QRP. Some photos of the group and the rigs on display were taken. Phil VE3AXL was the lucky winner of a year subscription to the QRP Quarterly, thanks to QRPARCI and QRP Canada. Looking forward to the next meeting.

(Excellent endeavour guys...please keep me posted on your activities!...Ed.)

More only in Canada..... (tks VA3SAM)

.....do we use the word 'politics' to describe the process so well: 'poli' in Latin means 'many', and 'tics' meaning 'bloodsucking creatures'!

(The following summation is from "Restructuring – the bottom line" by David Splitt, KE3VV, published in the March, 2000, issue of World Radio Magazine. It deals with Morse code requirements and has immediate relevance to U.S. amateurs but there is some food for thought here in CanadaEd.)

Morse Code will survive as a communications mode because it is basic to the spirit of our hobby and is a practical means of communication. However, the FCC response is "no communication system has been designed in many years that depends on hand-keyed telegraphy or the ability to receive messages in Morse code by ear. In contrast, modern communication systems are designed to be automated systems".

Further, the FCC sees a code requirement as a barrier to bolstering the dwindling ranks of Amateur operators. "Given the changes that have occurred in communications in the last fifty years, we believe that reducing the emphasis on telegraphy efficiency as a licensing requirement will allow the amateur service to, as it has in the past, attract technically inclined persons, particularly the youth of our country, and encourage them to learn and to prepare themselves....."

Moreover, "an individual's ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of that individual's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art".

"The overall purpose of holding on-the-air operating contests is to enhance the communicating and operating skills of amateurs in readiness for an emergency". The only reason Amateur Radio has the broad frequency allocations we enjoy is the public service role that we can play, especially in emergencies. If Morse code is not integral to communicating and operating skills in an emergency, it is not a necessary prerequisite for participation in the amateur service.

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club
held in Room 207B at Confederation College,
Thunder Bay, Ontario on March 9, 2000**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the President VA3RIM, Ian Mellis with 23 members and guests in attendance. The meeting started one half hour earlier than usual due to a scheduled tour of the weather office at 8:00 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting held February 12, 2000

The minutes of the meeting held February 12, 2000 were published in detail in the March edition of "HI-Q" and distributed to all members.

Motion: moved by VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski and seconded by VE3MAJ, Bob Barker that the minutes be accepted as distributed. **Carried.**

Correspondence:

-letter of thanks from the W. Ross Macdonald School

-letter from City of Thunder Bay regarding radio tower located at the animal services building on Main Street

Treasurer's Report : VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski

Balance as January 31, 2000		\$ 2,439.26
Income:		
Class Fees	195.00	
50/50 Draw	19.00	
Membership Fees	260.00	
Donation	9.00	
Annual Dinner	<u>912.00</u>	1,395.00
Expenses:		
Annual Dinner	790.86	
Administration	1.32	
Telephone	39.99	
Bank Service Charge	1.20	
"HI-Q"	<u>27.35</u>	860.72
Balance as of February 29, 2000		\$ 2,973.54

Motion: moved by VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski and seconded by VA3XRM, Rod McLeod that the Treasurer's report be accepted. **Carried.**

Old Business:

-Field Day: a discussion took place regarding the location of field day to be held the last weekend in June. Hazelwood Lake, VE3TKA Terry Stewardson's place or VA3GOT Randy Gottfred's place were identified as possible locations. Also, VA3MVR Mark Vaillant has access to property located at the junction of Highway 130 and Oliver Road.

Motion: moved by VE3XET, Eric Todd and seconded by VE3GTX, John Watson that field day be held at Hazelwood Lake. **Carried.**

New Business:

Publication of LARC Executive Minutes in "HI-Q":

Unable to attend the meeting, VE3AVS, Dave Kimpton submitted a written request to have the monthly Executive Committee minutes published in "HI-Q".

Motion: moved by VE3AVS, Dave Kimpton and seconded by VA3KEE, Tom Kukkee that the minutes of the monthly LARC Executive meetings be published monthly in "HI-Q". Dave's rationale for this motion was read to the members present by the Secretary. A general discussion was held on the pros and cons of the motion before a vote was held. For the motion - 1; against - 20. **Defeated.**

Adjournment: moved by VA3MOB, Maureen Meredith that the meeting be adjourned.

Tour of Weather Office: following the meeting, members had a tour of the Weather Office on Court Street. The tour was conducted by Wayne Whittaker who is presently working towards his amateur licence. Wayne explained how they prepare their forecasts and explained their extensive computer setup. He also answered the many questions that were asked of him. Thanks Wayne.

Thisn' that.....

Jenny Gets Caught in a Storm

Jenny was lost in her car in a bad snowstorm. She remembered what her Dad had once told her. If you ever get stuck in a snowstorm, wait for a snowplow and follow it. Pretty soon a snowplow came by, and she started to follow it. She followed the plow for about forty-five minutes. Finally the driver of the snowplow got out and asked what she was doing. She explained that her Dad had told her that if she ever got stuck in the snow, to follow a plow. He nodded and said, "Well, I'm done with the Wal-Mart lot, now you can follow me over to K-Mart!!!"

(Thanks Mike **VE3ZG**)

That's it for the April issue. Again thanks to Al **VA3AMY** for faithfully delivering the mail of interest to the editor. And thanks to Jan **VA3JRS** for proofing my copy before you get it. Thanks to all who submitted material. If yours didn't get in this time, it will show up in a future issue. 73

FLASH NEWS....From Bob Chandler **VE3SRE** re: **Ontario QSO Party**. The OQP organizers are trying to get more activity from the Great Northwest for the contest....Bob says we are kinda "exotic".

And so come **April 29-30 weekend**, try doing a little operating ...this is a "contest" for the "little people" who don't think of themselves as regular "contesters"...awards, certificates, etc.

For full operating details please log onto: <<http://www.odxa.on.ca/oqphome.html>>

(Bob...sorry no room to run full details...this is the best I could do at a late notice ...those without email can phone me at 344-8949 for copy of contest details...73 de ve3avs)